



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

October 18, 2005

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Rick Shaffer, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Shaffer:

Section 524 of 2004 Public Act 344 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report on the status of prevention programs.

The following information is our report on the status for this activity.

As part of their designated job description, the Family Independence Specialists are still responsible for Prevention Services to Families (PSF), with a goal of improving family functioning. Unfortunately, the following list of circumstances have severely limited the ability of the FIS workers to actively engage in providing PSF.

1. Since FY 2002 the number of DHS staff has been decreased 18.7%, due to early retirements and lack of funding.
2. Since FY 2002, there has been a 68% increase in the number of applications per worker and a 42% increase in the number of ongoing cases per worker.
3. Restricted Travel funds have curtailed the activities workers can engage in.
4. Local Office management has been forced to devote limited resources to other areas, in order to provide basic, required services to clients.

There are a few local offices that are still maintaining some PSF cases.

The majority of PSF cases have come from three other sources. Some local offices have designated Child Protection, working together as Community Partners (CPCP) funds to purchase the services of a prevention worker. There are 30 of these workers currently onboard in DHS. This has been the only way to provide prevention type services in most locations. These are all Limited Term Appointments, as the funding could decrease or be eliminated at any time.

A second source has been in Kent County where they have contracted with private agencies to provide this service.

The third source is in other locations where the Family Resource Centers (FRC) are providing the only available prevention services. There are currently 39 FRC's with 62 DHS staff providing a variety of customer services. Most of the FRC staff are FIS workers.

From January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004 the following training has been provided.

1. Limited prevention training has been provided to 213 FIS staff as part of their general training.
2. The specific training for "Promoting Strong Families" has been provided to 109 workers.

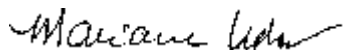
The following cases are open under the Prevention Services for Families category:

1. As of 09-30-05, there were 3,199 cases registered for prevention services.
2. 2,082 of these case are direct service by DHS staff (these could be FIS or CP/CP staff).
3. The remaining 1,117 are purchased cases handled by private agencies, primarily in Kent County.

Based on the average number of cases and the average cost of the staff and the Kent County contract, the average cost per case would be about \$982.80

In general the goals in having a Preventive Services for Families case are; 1) improve family functioning; and 2) reduce or eliminate re-referral or substantiation of future CPS cases on the family involved. There are no specific reports relating to just PSF cases, but information about these cases is incorporated in general reports about substantiation and referral rates.

Sincerely,



Marianne Udow

C: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate Standing Committee on Families & Human Services
House Standing Committee on Family & Children Services
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Office